

CHILD RIGHT FOR THE PHYSICAL BODY IN JODI PICOULT'S

NOVEL *MY SISTER'S KEEPER* (2004):

A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH



PUBLICATION ARTICLE

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting
Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department**

by:

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MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2014**



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Surakarta, 20 November 2014

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**CHILD RIGHT FOR THE PHYSICAL BODY IN JODI PICOULT'S
NOVEL *MY SISTER'S KEEPER* (2004):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

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ABSTRACT

This study is about child right for the physical body in My Sister's Keeper novel. The problem of this study is Anna Fitzgerald prosecutes her mother to stop being donor for her sister. This research paper belongs to qualitative research. In analyzing the data, the researcher applies descriptive analysis. The novel is analyzes the structural elements and to analyze the novel based on sociological approach proposed. The result of the research is as follows: Picoult write My Sister's Keeper novel as one of literary work to show that everyone has the right for her own body. No organ shall be removed from the body. The author reflects the social realities that happen in America.

Keywords: My Sister's Keeper, Child Right, Physical Body, Ownership of Bodily Principles, Sociological Approach.

A. Introduction

My Sister's Keeper is a novel created by Jodi Picoult. The novel was published in 2004 by a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc. first publishing is in Great Britain by Hodder & Stoughton and first publishing in America is by Atria. The novel consists of 55 chapters and has 432 pages. *My Sister's Keeper* was adapted in a movie with the same title *My Sister's Keeper*, that was released in June 2009, and the stars are Cameron Diaz, Alec Baldwin, Abigail Breslin.

The novel tells about the condition of Fitzgerald's family. Sara and Brian Fitzgerald have a daughter who gets AML. To save their sick daughter, they make a decision to have a baby again. The baby was born to save their sister. Anna is always become donor for Kate. When she was 13th, Anna asks to a lawyer to prosecute her mother. She wants to get medical emancipation for her body. She wants to stop being donor for Kate. All of the characters in the novel become narrator. They are narrate the story in each chapter. The author of this novel uses participant point of view. She tells clearly the setting of the novel. The character and characterization is supports to development of the plot. The story of the novel teaches that child right for the physical body must be guaranteed and protected by parents, society, goverment, and the state. Everyone has the right for their own body. No organ shall be removed from the body and nobody can preassures to donate the organ. There are some literature review concerning with *My Sister's Keeper* novel by Jodi Picoult, the first is by Beti Kristiani (2010) from English Language Education Program Department of Language and Arts Education, Faculty of Teachers training and Education, Sanata Darma, Yogyakarta. She researched a paper entitled "The meanings of a Mother's Love to Her Dying Daughter as Seen in Jodi Piccoult's *My Sister Keeper*". She focuses to analyze Sara that struggles to save her dying daughter and she tries to do the best for Kate's health.

Second is done by Reni Puspitasari. Department of Language and Arts Education UNNES Semarang, who wrote a paper entitled "Parents Role in Children Psychology Development as Reflected in Jody Piccolts *My Sister Keeper*". She focuses on how parents try to look for ways to solve problems in

their family and to discuss the roles of parents in children psychology development.

Third is done by Ruri Reviani Furi (2012) Department of English Cultural Studies University of Sumatera Utara who wrote a paper entitled “Anna’s Sacrifices in Jodi Picoult’s Novel *My Sister’s Keeper*”. She focuses on Anna’s Sacrifices as a permanent donor for her Kate.

The last is done by Novi Ridho’ah (2008) Faculty of English Education Ahmad Dahlan University of Yogyakarta who wrote a paper entitled “The Sue Of Medical Emancipation Of The Main Character In Jodi Picoult Novel’s *My Sister’s Keeper*”. She focuses to describe the characterization of the main character observed psychologically.

The novel shows the issue of this research is the efforts of major character to get medical emancipation for her physical body. She prosecutes her mother and makes new conflict in her family. So, the researcher conducts this research paper entitled **“CHILD RIGHT FOR THE PHYSICAL BODY IN JODI PICOULT’S NOVEL *MY SISTER’S KEEPER* (2004): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH”**

B. Research Method

The researcher uses qualitative research in this study. In this study, the researcher uses two types of data sources; they are primary data source and secondary data sources. The primary data source is *My Sister’s Keeper* novel (2004) by Jodi Picoult. The secondary data sources are the other sources related with this study such as books, website and other source that support this study. The technique of analyzing data is descriptive qualitative analysis. The researcher has some steps in analyzing the data as follows: a) Reading *My Sister’s Keeper* novel to understand the novel deeply. b) Reading some related books to find the theory, data and information. c) Accessing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study. d) Making a summary and determining title, issue, topic, and theory about that novel. e) Taking notes of important thing both of primary and secondary data sources. f) Selecting

particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis. g) Drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

C. Reserach Findings and Discussion

1. Child Right fot the physical Body

Child is a big gift from God to us as a human. A child is every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier (the Convention on the Rights of the Child). A child shall enjoy the right to care and protection both in the womb and after birth (article 2 point 3, Law number 4 of 1979 on Child Welfare). The use of children as organ suppliers is one of the problematic results of an organ procurement system. There is also an anxiety that children's bodies are being used to provide organs for transplants (breach of article 6, the Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Bjorkman and Hansson (2006: 165) explained that own and ownership are often used to denote not only full property rights but also some of inalienable and non- tradable rights. It is common to say that a person owns her body, but not that she owns her freedom of expression or her right to vote. In general ownership is a precondition for economic transactions, but to develop types of ownership relations that are appropriate for different objects of ownership, ownership is the extent of biological material that can be owned. The principles of ownership or other rights a person should have to parts of his/ her own body.

According to Bjorkman and Hansson in Journal of Medical Ethics (2006) there are five of ownership of bodily principles that can be used in constructing bundles of rights for differents types of biological material.

2. According to Bjorkman and Hansson

a. No material may be taken without permission

Bjorkman and Hanson (2006) states that “no material may be taken from a person's body without that person's informed consent”. In *My Sister's Keeper* novel Anna Fitzgerald is a perfect donor for Kate Fitzgerald. They are sister, their parents prepares Anna to have matches genetic organ with Kate. During becoming a donor for Kate, their parents never asks before to Anna, that she wants to do or not. In America many people are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. American who has chronic diseases or who has a history of cancer or other serious diseases still encourages to join the donor registry. The first priority of a medical professional is to save lives when sick or injured people comes to the hospital. Organ and tissue donation is not even considers or discussessed until after death is declared. In America any an organization that the member is living donors. In 2012, more than 122. 344 peoples waits for lifesaving organ transplant by living donors. The American Transplant Foundation gives important information to inform the benefits, risk, and considerations to prepare the living donors.

[\(http://www.americantransplantfoundation.org/about-transplant/facts-and-myths/\)](http://www.americantransplantfoundation.org/about-transplant/facts-and-myths/)

b. Organ donation is allowed for the sake of the donor

According to Bjorkman and Hanson, under conditions of informed consent, removal of bodily material is allowed as a means to obtain significant therapeutic advantages for the person herself. Becoming a donor, if Kate in the hospital Anna is in the hospital too. Anna is not sick, but she feels the sickness because of Anna donates her blood or the stem cells. She received injections for medical treatments. According to the living donors in American Transplant Foundation, the member of living donor wants to help more than 117.000 people in the United States who are waiting for lifesaving transplants. As a living donor, there are several

short and long term data collections on the risks and it is associated with living organ donation. Based on the information that risk can be considered to be low. The risk can be differed among donors and the type of organ.

(<http://www.americantransplantfoundation.org/about-transplant/living-donation/>)

c. Organ donation is allowed if it does not cause damage

Under conditions of informed consent, removal of bodily material is allowed as a means to obtain significant therapeutic advantages for one or more other persons, provided that the removal does not cause serious or disproportionate harm to the person from whom the material is taken (Bjorkman and Hanson, 2006). Anna is described as a donor and Kate as patient who needs a donation from Anna. Since Anna was born, she has become donor for Kate. The condition makes Kate live longer. When Anna is 13th years old, she is asked by her mother about her kidney donation to Kate, but she refuses it. If Anna donates her kidney for Kate, she just has a kidney. Just has a kidney in the human body has big risk to the health. In American Transplant Foundation, the positive aspect of living organ donation are for the recipient can improves the recipients health and quality of live, and for the the living donor is the gift of an organ can save the life of a transplant candidate. The experiences from their donation gives positive emotional for living donor.

(<http://www.americantransplantfoundation.org/about-transplant/living-donation/about-living-donation/>)

d. The donation should be stopped if there is any significant risk

If there is a significant risk that a certain practice in dealing with a biological material will result in exploitation of human beings, then that practice should either be disallowed or modified so that the exploitation is brought to an end (Bjorkman and Hanson, 2006). A practice of

biological material Kate's medical treatment stopped when Anna refuses to become a donor anymore. Anna's life is always to become a donor suppliers for Kate from blood, stem cells, until bone marrow. In America living donation categorizes as follows, living related donation and living unrelated donation. Living related donation is the living donor that biologically relates to the recipient. Living unrelated donor emotionally relates to the recipient.

(<http://www.americantransplantfoundation.org/about-transplant/living-donation/about-living-donation/>)

e. The system of medical legal right should promote to the rights of the patients

Bjorkman and Hanson (2006) states that "the system of legal rights should promote the efficient distribution of biological material for therapeutic purposes to patients according to their medical needs". In the novel, Anna as donor is never telling by the doctor about her medical record for her medical activity. Since she was born until she prosecutes her mother, her medical record is never informed.

D. Discussions

In the *My Sister's Keeper* novel by Jodi Picoult shows the complicated story about Anna Fitzgerald and her family. The main problem of Anna is she wants her medical emancipation from her petition. She wants live normal without become donor again for Kate. She helped by Campbell Alexander to prosecute her mother. The researcher uses sociological approach to analysis the conflict in the study. The researcher analysis from social aspect, economic aspect, politic aspect, science and technology aspect, cultural aspect and religious aspect. To deeper the analysis, the researcher also uses bodily principles by Bjorkman and Hansson in *Journal of Medical Ethics* (2006).

According to Wellek and Warren (1956: 95), an author should express the life of his own time fully, that he should be representative of his age and society.

In *My Sister's Keeper* novel, Picoult takes place the setting of the time and the setting place is in the true place at America. She builds the the story suitable with the social condition in America. The diction of Picoult represents her age. The emotionally story represents her ability and her experiences in social and writing. Literature is not really a reflection of the social process, but the essence, the abridgement and summary of all history (Wellek and Warren, 1956: 95). Picoult makes *My Sister's Keeper* novel suitable with the fact that happens in America. She is inspired by eugenic project in Vermont in 80 years ago. She brings up the issue that happened about transplant in *My Sister's Keeper*.

Based on the sociological analysis of *My Sister's Keeper* novel. The researcher concludes that the author makes this novel story based on the social condition of America at the time. She shows the social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, science and technology aspect, culture aspect and religious aspect represented in American life at the time. The author makes clearly the setting of the time and setting of place at the end of twentieth century until the early of twenty first century.

According to Laurenson and Swingwood (1972: 22) the purpose of sociology is to understand the nature and the workings of all societies and men's position with them. The story of *My Sister's Keeper* is easy to imagines and it is easy to understand. Taine in (Laurenson and Swingwood, 1972: 40) directs that literature was largely the expression of environment, heredity, and creative genius. Picoult makes the story suitable with in the family in America. She tells the story in the dalily life.

Picoult takes the issue that is near with the reality. She tells the reader about family's condition who has a sick child and the other daughter conditions that have to become a donor for her sister. The theme suitable of this story is everyone has the right for their own physical body, especially for the child.

E. Conclusion

After analyzing *My Sister's Keeper* , the conclusion in this research as follows, based on the sociological approach, it can be concluded that in this novel, the author illustrates a sociological phenomenon in the characters and society. There is a relation between the novel with the social condition of reality. In this novel suggest, the child right for the physical body that must be guaranteed and protected by the parents, society, goverment and the state. Beside that, everyone has the right for their own body. No organ shall be removed from the body and nobody can preassures to donate the organ.

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